

From: Wood. James [mailto:woodj@saccounty.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2008 1:49 PM
To: MLPAComments
Subject: MY COMMENTS

To Whom It May Concern,

I wanted to express my thoughts about the proposed areas slated for closure along the Marin and Sonoma coasts. I urge all members of the commission to consider the impact of closing the areas which are indicated on your maps. I live in Sutter County and during the summer, I along with my family and a large number of friend's fish regularly off the Marin and Sonoma coasts. One of my favorite places to fish is near Point Reyes. I along with most everyone that I take love the spectacular beauty of the coast, the great fishing, and the adventure associated with the trip from either San Francisco or Bodega Bay. Another of our favorites is the Farallon Islands. My family and I have caught and eaten a lot of great tasting fish caught from both of these spots. I understand that these areas would be deemed to be off limits if the MLPA has their way. If the MLPA commission approves these areas as "off limits" there will be a lot of sad faces in our family. A closure of these areas will not only displace more businesses that depend on my dollars, it will lead to collapse of an entire fishing community. That community includes me, a recreational fisherman, but countless others who fish for a living as well as all the businesses that depend on the fisherman. These businesses include restaurants, gas stations, grocery stores, bait shops, ice makers & sellers, and every little mom and pop store that we stop at and spend our money at. I understand the intent and the desire to preserve areas of our coast, but this attempt to close these areas is like using a bazooka to kill a fly. It amounts to overkill. The real losers will be the kids who will never be able to experience the Farallons or Point Reyes on a fishing trip. I'm not just talking about my son, but the countless other kids who I take fishing. I just don't see the kids begging me to take them to the islands or Point Reyes for just a boat ride. They want to fish! We obey the limits and never take just to take. We are fun lovers and consumers of everything we catch. Please consider the impact of your decisions. I understand, through mostly hearsay, that the MLPA commission is comprised mainly of people who are not fisherman, who are driven by a political agenda, and probably have never seen the smile of a kid when he catches his 1st ling cod. I beg each of the commission members to tread lightly, respect the voices of everyone, and to use good judgment when deciding the areas for closure.

Thank You.

Jim Wood
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